Development as model railway stations in Bihar

943. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state ;

(a) whether any railway stations in Bihar have been selected for development as model railway stations :

(b) if so, what are their names ; and

(c) by when the work for their development would start?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following 8 stations have been selected to be developed as model railway stations in Bihar State:

1. Dhanbad
2. Gaya
3. Patna
4. Samastipur
5. Muzaffarpur
6. Katihar
7. Ranchi and
8. Tatanagar.

(c) The works at all these stations have commenced and are at various stages of progress.

National highways in Bihar

944. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the bad condition of national highways passing through Bihar ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) what are the steps taken for their improvement ; and

(d) whether Government propose to take up the improvement of road connecting Patna and Nepal via Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (c) National Highways in Bihar are generally in traffic worthy condition except those short stretches which have been damaged due to unprecedented rains and floods. Estimates for repairs of flood damages amounting Rs. 524 lakhs and Rs. 235·5 lakhs have so far been sanctioned during the year 1987-88 and 1988-89 respectively. During the current year funds amounting to Rs. 928·33 lakhs have so far been released for Maintenance & Repairs. Further a sum of Rs.1200.00 lakhs has been allocated for the development of National Highways in Bihar. During the 7th plan estimates amounting to Rs. 30·53 crores for development of National Highways have been sanctioned so far.

(d) No, Sir.

Parallel runway at Juhu airfield

945. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Indian Express dated 16th February, 1989 under the caption 'Tussle over airfield construction to the effect that there is strong disagreement between Indian Airlines, Air India and National Airports Authority of India, over proposed consfruction of a parallel runway at Juhu airfield ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and